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Vernon, Mrs. H. M. *Italy from 1494 to 1790.* Pp. viii, 516. Price, 5s. 6d.
Cambridge: University Press, 1909.

This book is not up to the high standard of most of the other works in the series to which it belongs. It purports to deal, as its title implies, with the history of Italy from the invasion of Charles VIII of France to the beginning of the Revolutionary era, and the author tells us in her preface that she proposes to lay stress on the period after 1559 "about which it is difficult for the ordinary reader to obtain information." But the implied promise is scarcely fulfilled. Nothing is more needed, for instance, than a clear and scholarly description of the administration of the Spanish dependencies in Italy in the last half of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and in a book like this one has a right to expect it. Instead we find in Chapter III a scrappy and often inaccurate collection of data on this topic, which is clearly inferior to the account in Ranke's "Die Osmanen Monarchie und die Spanische" and, by the way, are we to assume that Mrs. Vernon is ignorant of this classic work, or are we expected to recognize it under the title of "History of the Latin and Teutonic Nations from 1494-1514," which appears in the bibliography? Tommaso Campanella is certainly worth more in a work of this scope than the dozen lines allotted to him on page 284. The account of the Papacy and administration of the states of the church would have been enormously improved by a perusal of Herre's "Pabstthum und Pabstwahl im Zeitalter Philipps des Zweiten" of which there is no mention; his "Evropäisch Politik im Cypriischen Krieg," on the other hand, is scarcely sufficiently near to the subject of this work to merit the place it holds in the selected bibliography.

Of actual errors of fact there are few, though minor inconsistencies and infelicities in nomenclature abound; but the work as a whole gives an impression of being patched together, of lack of unity, and of absence of historic background. It will doubtless serve a useful purpose in giving the English-speaking student who is ignorant of continental languages a tolerable hand-book for a period of which he otherwise would have to remain in ignorance, but it cannot for one moment pretend to rank with the standard French, German, or Italian authorities.

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War in the Far East. By a military correspondent of the "Times." Pp. 656.
Price, \$5.00. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.

Though this book was written from daily reports sent to the "Times" during the Russo-Japanese war, it remains the best account of the conflict from the Japanese side that has yet appeared. England's ally is consistently upheld, but the partisanship is not an unreasoning one and the author does not hesitate to give praise to Russia and the Russians when it is due. Then, too, there is a certain glow about the reports coming, as they do, direct from